

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended)

A sealing arrangement which seals at least one radial interspace between at least one inner bearing ring and at least one outer bearing ring, the radial interspace being a hollow region between the ~~where neither bearings nor where the bearings do not mate rings axially overlap~~, the sealing arrangement comprising

- at least a first support, the first support bearing at least one elastic seal,
- second support, the second support bearing at least one encoder arranged outside the interspace, and the encoder being oriented radially toward at least one sensor arranged above the encoder in the radially outward direction,
- a dirt deflector on the inner bearing ring, the dirt deflector and the first support being arranged such that they can be rotated relative to one another, and the seal butting at least against the dirt deflector,

wherein the encoder engages around the inner bearing ring, and in that the encoder is covered fully at least in the radial direction and at least partially in the axial direction by means of a covering element, the covering element being rotationally fixed on one of the bearing rings, and wherein neither the encoder nor the sensor penetrate into the interspace.

2. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the covering element at least partially covers the seal.

3. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the covering element is formed integrally with the first support made of sheet metal.

4. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 3, wherein the covering element is fixed on a radially outer surface section of the outer bearing ring.

5. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 3, wherein the covering element is fixed on an inner surface of the outer bearing ring.

6. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 4, wherein, starting from the outer bearing ring, the covering element first of all extends axially away from the outer bearing ring and radially between the sensor and the encoder, and covers the encoder in the radial direction in the process, in that the covering element then extends radially inward and covers the encoder and the interspace in the axial direction in the process, and in that the covering element, finally, extends axially in the direction of rolling bodies and accommodates the seal.

7. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the covering element is formed integrally with the second support.

8. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dirt deflector and the

second support are formed in one piece from sheet metal.

9. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 8, wherein, starting from the dirt deflector, and arranged radially between the seal and the inner bearing ring, the second support is first of all oriented axially in the direction of rolling bodies and then runs radially outward away from the inner bearing ring, between the rolling bodies and the seal, and in that the second support, finally, is oriented axially in the direction of the covering element and has the encoder.

10. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dirt deflector and the covering element are formed in one piece.

11. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the covering element first of all is seated firmly on the inner bearing ring and then extends radially outward from the inner bearing ring, the covering element engaging partially around the outer bearing ring in the radially outward direction, it being spaced apart radially from the outer bearing ring.

12. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the encoder is arranged radially between the outer bearing ring and the covering element.

13. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the encoder is fixed on the outer bearing ring in the radially outward direction.

14. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the seal butts axially against the dirt deflector by way of at least one sealing lip.

15. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the seal butts radially against the dirt deflector by way of at least one sealing lip.

16. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the seal butts directly against the inner bearing ring by way of at least one sealing lip.

17. (previously presented)

The sealing arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the seal and the dirt deflector enclose between them an annular cavity filled with a lubricating grease.